

Wanderers reach Senior Cup final after 210 minutes

Wolverton Town 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WITH A sound and solid performance Wycombe Wanderers booked their place in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final on Easter Monday—for the second season in succession—after 210 minutes of semi-final football against Wolverton Town.

Wolverton's gallant effort of holding Wycombe to a 3-3 draw at Loakes Park, a fortnight ago, fizzled out to become only a cherished memory and not the major upset. Wolverton's largest crowd of the season had hoped to witness.

In fact, the "Wolves" display did not match their earlier performance and as a whole the general run of play was rather ragged.

If Wanderers' win was not spectacular it was certainly workmanlike. The defence gave the home forwards little space in which to work and Vince Faulkner kept a very close eye on Wolverton's Hamilton, their most dangerous forward in the first meeting.

John Maskell, playing his last match before starting a 14-day suspension, was hardly called into action, although he was picking the ball out of the net after only five minutes but Atterbury was, quite rightly, adjudged to be offside.

BUSBY GOES CLOSE

Both teams probed for weaknesses in the opening stages and Busby was unfortunate enough to see his header strike the bar with Cleaver stranded. At the other end Maskell advanced bravely to plunge at Atterbury's feet.

The large crowd was strangely quiet although Wolverton's approachwork did not inspire confidence. Wycombe's Stuart Thompson settled comfortably into the defence after a nervous start and with Baker, he was soon driving the team forward.

After 38 minutes Holmes robbed Pittam on the left touchline and streaked down his wing before cutting the ball back for Merrick to prod past the slow-moving Cleaver.

Wanderers' first-half work rate had not been impressive, but to be fair, they had hardly

been stretched by Wolverton, who looked very disjointed when advancing.

The first 60 seconds of the second half was conducted to the accompanying music of Harry Secombe's "If I ruled the world", which was still being transmitted over the tany system.

Wanderers' did not need to be instructed on how to command the situation as they completely ruled the second period. Field rescued Wolverton when he cleared Merrick's shot off the line and Thompson moved up to fire a 18-yard drive straight at Cleaver.

CHARGED DOWN

After 69 minutes Samuels charged down an intended clearance and shot against the left hand post and Busby had the simple job of tapping the rebound in.

One sensed that Wolverton had given up the fight but after 76 minutes they created havoc in the Wycombe goalmouth.

For the first time in the match their forwards combined in one co-ordinated effort and Blair completely foxed Maskell with his shot which hit the bar. From the rebound Atterbury looked certain to score but Thompson had positioned himself intelligently to clear off the line.

Almost immediately Wycombe springboarded into attack and caught the Wolverton defence wide open. Holmes swung over a high cross and Cleaver, being challenged by Busby, tamely palmed the ball out straight to Samuels, who drove in a first-time volley.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; P. Martin, C. Gale; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, S. Thompson; L. Worley, V. Busby, L. Merrick, K. Samuels, S. Holmes.